

Appl. No. 10/007,156
 Amdt. dated August 11, 2006
 Reply to Office Action of 04/11/06

PATENT

Listing of claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying and ranking entities having expertise in one or more subjects in health care fields, the method comprising:

querying a database for documents relevant to a subject in a health care field;

calculating a first score for each relevant document;

determining entities affiliated with ~~one or more~~ each relevant documents, each of the entities being affiliated with one or more documents in a set, at least one of the entities includes an institution or person affiliated with the set of the one or more documents;

calculating a second score for each entity based on the one or more first scores of the ~~one or more~~ relevant documents affiliated with the entity; and

ranking expertise of the entities based on the respective second scores of the entities; and

displaying expertise associated with the respective entities to a user.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a ranking of expertise of the entities to a user.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the entities includes graphically depicting levels of expertise.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the entities includes numerically depicting levels of expertise.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 calculating a third score for each of a plurality of geographic areas based on the respective second scores of entities located within the each of the plurality of geographic areas;
 and

~~ranking expertise of the plurality of geographic areas based on the respective third scores of the plurality of geographic areas.~~

displaying expertise associated with each of the plurality of geographic areas to the user, based on the respective third scores of the plurality of geographic areas.

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6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining entities includes:
determining an author of ~~the~~ a document in the set of documents; and determining from what one or more institutions the document emanated.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein determining from what one or more institutions the document emanated includes:
examining an address of the determined author.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the address is a mailing address.
9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the address is an email address.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, further comprising displaying a ranking of expertise of each of the plurality of geographic areas to a the user, based on the respective third scores of each of the plurality of geographic areas.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic areas includes graphically depicting levels of expertise.
12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein displaying a ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic areas includes numerically depicting levels of expertise.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a type of the document.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the first score is based on whether the document is a review.
15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a number of pages of the document.
16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a date of publication of the document.

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17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on an impact score of a journal in which the document was published.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first score is based on a number of relevant documents.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the entities~~ an entity affiliated with ~~one or more~~ a relevant document includes an authors of the ~~one or more~~ relevant documents.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the entities~~ an entity affiliated with ~~one or more~~ a relevant documents includes an institution affiliated with the documents.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is at least one of the Medlars databases.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Westlaw database.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Lexis database.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Dialog database.

25. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Medlex database.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Science Citation Index.

27. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Genbank database.

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28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is the Internet.

29. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the database of documents is a subset of the Internet.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for ~~identifying~~ assessing expertise associated with an entity in a subject in health care fields, the system comprising a server system coupled with a database of documents, the server system having a memory including:

a first code configured to receive a subject in a health care field from a user;

a second code configured to query the database for documents relevant to the subject;

a third code configured to calculate a first score for each relevant document;

a fourth code configured to identify entities affiliated with one or more of the relevant documents, at least one of the entities corresponding to an institution or a person;

a fifth code configured to calculate a second score for each entity based on the ~~one or more first scores of the one or more~~ a plurality of relevant documents affiliated associated with the entity; and

a sixth code configured to ~~provide to the user a ranking of the expertise of the entities based on the respective scores of the entities~~ represent to a user the second score of the entity or a ranking of the entity based on its second score, the second score being indicative of the expertise in the subject associated with the entity.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein the server system is coupled to the database via a world wide network of computers.

32. (Original) The system of claim 30 wherein the server system is coupled to a world wide network of computers, and further comprising a user computer coupled with the server system via the worldwide network of computers.

33. (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the first code is configured to receive the subject from the user via the world wide network of computers, and wherein the sixth

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code is configured to provide to the user the ranking of the expertise of the entities via the world wide network of computers.

34. (New) A method of assessing expertise associated with an entity in a subject in health care fields, the method comprising:

- querying a database for documents relevant to the subject;
- determining a first set of entities associated with the relevant documents;
- calculating a score for each entity in the first set of entities based on the number of relevant documents associated with each entity;
- populating a second database to include each of the entities in the first set of entities and the score associated with each of the entities in the first set of entities;
- receiving a query related to an entity;
- determining a second set of entities associated with the entity related to the query;
- retrieving from the second database the score associated with each entity in the second set of entities;
- representing to a user the scores of the entities in the second set of entities or a ranking of the entities in the second set of entities based on the scores of the entities in the second set of entities;
- wherein the score of an entity is indicative of the expertise in the subject associated with the entity.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the score for each entity in the first set of entities is additionally based on the number of authors associated with each of the documents relevant to each entity.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the score for each entity in the first set of entities is additionally based on the type of document of each of the documents relevant to each entity.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the entity related to the query is a geographical area.

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38. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the entity is selected from a
hospital university or other

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